

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 23, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments are made in response thereto. Claims 1-7, 11-26, 28, 30-34 and 37-45 were last examined and stand rejected. Claims 38, 39 and 44 have been canceled herein.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 24, 31 and 37 to recite the subject matter of previous claim 44. Claim 37 has been further amended to incorporate all of the limitations of previous claims 38 and 39. Claims 40 and 41 have been amended in light of the amendments to claim 37. Claims 15-17 have been amended to recite “consists of” in place of “consists essentially of”. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that the subject matter of claims 44 and 45 is free of the prior art. All of the independent claims have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 44. Applicants believe that in view of the amendments to the claims all remaining rejections are obviated and should be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

As discussed above, the Examiner indicated that claims 44 and 45 are free of the prior art but are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The limitations of claim 44 have been added to independent claims 1, 24, 31 and 37 and claim 44 has been canceled. Claim 45 depends from amended claim 24. Applicants believe that in view of the amendments to claim 24 the objection to claim 45 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all outstanding issues, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the case. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 731-5768.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.01-0431. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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